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'1,113 Brothers Are Rescued'

By Dr. Humberto Medrano
Of Prensa Libre, Havana

The rescue of the Bay of Pigs prisoners has my approval. I have expressed my approval publicly since the first possibility of its accomplishment arose.

In my opinion, personal considerations do not count. It is not because I have a brother-in-law among the prisoners that I approve of a ransom operation. To me, 1,113 brothers are being rescued.

When they arrive here they will reinforce our obligation to rescue other thousands of brothers still in prison; they will strengthen our urgent sense of duty to join in the struggle to salvage Cuba, together with the other millions of our brothers still living in oppression.

I approve, then, in the first place because there can be no valid moral reason to oppose the deliverance of human beings from torture and slow death. There is no valid moral reason to oppose the salvation of our fellow human beings in that matter one.

In the second place, I approve because I do not hold with the reasoning that calls this rescue operation an aid to Castro's political survival.

Fidel Castro's political survival does not depend on a few tons of medicine, foodstuffs and surgical supplies. It is possible that these supplies eventually will alleviate some of the suffering of the Cuban people temporarily, but it will neither justify nor prolong the rule of the hangmen.

The enormous guilt of their crimes against the people weighs heavily upon them. It is deeply imbedded in their cold-blooded treason and in their deliberate and systematic destruction of our moral and material fiber. It will not be erased overnight. The long period of reconstruction will keep it alive.

On the other hand, from our point of view, the rescue operation certainly will contribute to the aid and comfort of Fidel Castro.



Dr. Humberto Medrano

Dr. Humberto Medrano of Prensa Libre in Exile approves the exchange of prisoners for medical goods as a moral obligation to save the 1,113 from torture and slow death. Medrano does not see the aid as assisting Castro's continued reign, but as a momentary relief for the Cubans in their homeland.

Return Of The Captives

Among other things, there are the selfishness and greed of opportunists who feel no kinship to their fellow humans in tragedy; or who use it to their advantage. Among these we must include the ignorant and the weak who allow themselves to be used; we also include the willing accomplices among us in disguise.

Another element of aid to the enemy is the lack of unity among us Cubans.

There is nothing unusual in the first factor. It is a common one in the course of world history.

There is nothing unusual in the second factor either — but this one is unforgivable. Because unless we join together, all of us, to face the common enemy, we shall never attain the moral force to overcome him, nor even to point the finger at those who support him by direct action or by sins of omission.

The third circumstance to consider, we believe, is that the government of the United States has not given its aid and consent to the rescue operation of the Bay of Pigs

prisoners, is complying with its moral obligation. This government acknowledges its responsibility for the Bay of Pigs disaster. Logic, justice and decency compell them to repair the damage insofar as it is humanly possible to do so.

Those who believe that with this operation the United States will write off all of its moral obligations, are mistaken. This is not a nation of morons or gangsters. The people of this country know the dangers of Castro-communism. They know their duty as leaders of the free world.

We have never seen Uncle Sam draw back in the face of danger or duty. If any government official, for any reason whatsoever, should fail to follow this tradition, then the people of this nation are sufficiently aware of their rights to demand action; especially when their own survival is at stake.

Finally, I do not see this liberation of prisoners as a shameful pact for coexistence. This is a separate, isolated, concrete and necessary operation to salvage human lives and live up to national commitments.

Let us not forget that there are many thousands of Cubans here who did not come for a rescue, but to fight. This is a fight that nothing — nobody — can deprive us of, so long as we ourselves are willing to make use of it.

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